

2 Samuel 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

Analysis

And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Kindness to Mephibosheth, emphasizing covenant faithfulness, grace. David's kindness to Mephibosheth illustrates *chesed* (חֶסֶד, covenant faithfulness/loyal love). This grace shown to Jonathan's crippled son demonstrates covenant loyalty transcending political expedience. The narrative foreshadows God's grace toward spiritually crippled humanity. Cross-references to David and Jonathan's covenant (1 Samuel 18:3, 20:14-17) and New Testament grace themes enrich understanding.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 9 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding covenant faithfulness, grace provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and

expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of covenant faithfulness, grace?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

נֶשָׂא וּלְ	לְבֵית	אִישׁ	עַד	הֲאֵין	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אָמַר
of Saul	of the house	yet any	H5750	Is there not	And the king	said
H7586	H1004	H376		H657	H4428	H559
צִיָּבָא	אָמַר	אֱלֹהֵי	חַסְדִּי	עִמּוֹ	וְאֶשֶׁשׁ	הַ
unto him And Ziba	said	of God	the kindness	H5973	that I may shew	
H6717	H559	H430	H2617		H6213	
בְּגָלְתָּ:	נֶכֶד	לִיהוֹנָתָן	יֵב	עַד	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֶל
on his feet	which is lame	Jonathan	hath yet a son	H5750	And the king	
H7272	H5223	H3083	H1121		H4428	H413

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 4:4 (Parallel theme): And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

Luke 6:36 (Parallel theme): Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

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